

Message Text

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63

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-03 SY-04

PPT-02 /032 W

----- 018965

R 171300Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2567

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ZAGREB 0616

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, YO (LADKI, SAMIH A.)

SUBJECT: W/W SAMIH AHMAD LADKI

REFS: (A) BEIRUT 6930; (B) ROME OM OF JULY 11 (ZAGREB ONLY);
(C) ZAGREB 0529; (D) BELGRADE 1639 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ACTING CHIEF CROATIA'S OFFICE FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS
HAS RAISED LADKI CASE AND STRESSED THAT LADKI'S DEPARTURE
FROM YUGOSLAVIA WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR HIS OFFICE TO
INTERVENE STRONGLY ON BEHALF AMERICANS IN DIFFICULTIES.
END SUMMARY

1. DURING CALL JULY 12 TO INTRODUCE NEW CHIEF CONSULAR SECTION
MCCOY TO ACTING CHIEF CROATIA'S OFFICE FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS
MONTILJO, LATTER RAISED LADKI CASE. MONTILJO SAID POST SHOULD
HAVE ADVISED OFFICE CONSULAR AFFAIRS AS SOON AS POST LEARNED
LADKI FAMILY HAD CHECKED OUT OF ZAGREB HOTEL. MONTILJO, MOST
UNHAPPY ABOUT AFFAIR, GUESSED DUAL-NATIONAL LADKI MAY HAVE USED
LEBANESE PASSPORT TO BOARD FLIGHT FROM ZAGREB AIRPORT. HE
SPECULATED CONFIDENTLY THAT LADKI IN LEBANON. MONTILJO DID
NOT MENTION ANY SURREPTITIOUS BORDER CROSSING BY LADKI (REF A).

2. MY REPLY EMPHASIZED THAT POST FIRST LEARNED OF LADKI FAMILY'S
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JUNE 9 CHECK OUT FROM ZAGREB'S HOTEL PALACE SEVERAL DAYS AFTER

EVENT AND ANY UNDERSTANDING ON PART OF OFFICE OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS THAT POST HAD EARLIER KNOWLEDGE IS TOTALY IN ERROR. IN FACT, POST ASKED OFFICE OF CONSULAR AFFAIRE ON JUNE 14 FOR LADKI'S WHEREABOUTS WHEN POST LEARNED LADKI HAD CHECKED OUT OF HIS ZAGREB HOTEL THE PREVIOUS SUNDAY. (CONSULAR OFFICEG RECALLS MONTILJO SPECULATING FOLLOWING WEEK THAT LADKI PROBABLY ALREADY IN LEBANON AND THAT HIS RETURN MIGHT BE SOUGHT THROUGH INTERPOL CHANNELS. MAY BE NOTED THAT, ACCORDING REF B RECEIVED ZAGREB JUNE 21. LADKI ENTERED ITALY ON SUNDAY, JUNE 9, THE DAY HE CHECKEDHOUT OF ZAGREB HOTEL.)

3. NMONTILJO UNDERLINED THAT LADKI'S DEPARURE WILL MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR OFFICE OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS TO INTERVENE AS STRONGLY AS BEFORE ON BEHALF AMERICANS IN DIFFICULTIES WITH AUTHORITIES IN CROATIA (PARA 4, REF C). MONTILJO PERSONALLY HAD INTERVENED VIGOROUSLY WITH SLAVONSKA POZEGA COURT TO PERMIT LADKI'S TRANSFER FROM HOSPITAL IN COURT'S DISTRICT TO ZAGREB'S REBRO HOSPITAL AND TO ALLOW LADKI TO REMAIN AT LIBERTY AFTER RELEASE FROM REBRO. MONTILJO SAID COURT NOW ASKING FOR BAIL SET TO ENABLE LADKI TO DEPART YUGOSLAVIA WHILE APPEAL OF HIS TWO-YEAR SENTENCE FOR "MANSLAUGHTER AND CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE" PENDING. ADDITIONALLY, MONTILJO STRESSED REBRO HOSPITAL WANTS APPROXIMATELY \$2,000 LADKI OWES IT.

4. MONTILJO MENTIONED THAT LEBANESE PROGRESSIVE PARTY FIGURE DJAoud HAD WRITTEN EARLIER TO YUGOSLAVI'S SOCIALIST ALLIANCE (POLITICAL FRONT ORGANIZATION) ON BEHALF OF LADKI. (THIS CONNECTION, LADKI'S FATHER, AHMED LADKI, WHEN VISITING POST EARLIER THIS YEAR, HOPED THAT LETTER FROM "SENIOR LEBANESE OFFICIAL" TO ALWSUKRIJA, MEMBER FROM KOSOVO ON SOCIALIST ALLIANCE'S PRESIDENCY, MIGHT PERSUADE YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES TO PERMIT SON TO LEAVE YUGOSLAVI. FURTHER HIGH-LEVEL, LEBANESE INTEREST IN CASE INDICATED BY PERSONAL LETTER FROM LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER TO LEBANON'S BELGRADE EMBASSY ON BEHALF LADKI (REXOD)).).

5. MY SUGGESTION CONNECTION HOSPITAL BILLS WAS THAT REBRO HOSPITAL WRITE MRS. LADKI'S INSURANCE COMPANY WHICH HAS PAID SOME OF LADKI'S HOSPITAL BILLS ABOUT ITS READINESS PAY BALANCE. CONFIDENTIAL

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SHOULD THIS NOT SUCCEED, DJAoud LETTER MIGHT PROVIDE LEAD TO LADKI'S FATHER.

6. MONTILJO TOOK DUE NOTE OF FIRST SUGGESTION, BUT, GIVEN "GOOD STATUS YUGOSLAV-LEBANESE RELATIONS," WAS NOT SANGUINE ABOUT POSSIBILITIES FOR PRESSING MATTERS IN LEBANON. HE SEEMS TO FEEL THAT LADKI PROBABLY CAN ENJOY HAVEN IN LEBANON. WILSON

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